

Application No. 09/813,998
Response dated December 1, 2003
Reply Office to Action of September 5, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5-7 are pending in this application.

Claims 3 and 4, which are directed to non-elected inventions due to the Applicants' response filed on February 3, 2003, in response to the Restriction Requirement in the Office Action mailed on January 8, 2003, are canceled in this Response. However, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected inventions.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,129,902). Claim 1 is amended to cancel it.

In view of the aforementioned amendment, pending claims 2 and 5-7 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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